

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0922

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2841

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR LEADERS MEET WITH MRS. PERON

REF: A. BA 2374 AND B. BA 1721

1. MRS. PERON, BACKED BY INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA AND LABOR MINISTER OTERO, MET FOR TWO HOURS APRIL 22 WITH REPS OF CGT AND 62 ORGANIZATIONS, LED BY CASILDO HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL. ALL OBSERVERS HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST ABSENCE OF LOPEZ REGA, WHO ALMOST ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES MRS. PERON ON SUCH OCCASIONS. HIS ABSENCE PROBABLY DOES NOT SUGGEST ANY DIMINUTION OF HIS HOLD OVER MRS. PERON, HOWEVER; RATHER, SHE PROBABLY SIMPLY DEEMED IT MORE TACTFUL NOT TO BRING HIM ALONG SINCE HIS PRESENCE WOULD HAVE IRRITATED LABOR LEADERS AT MOMENT SHE TRYING TO SMOOTH OVER RELATIONS WITH THEM.

2. WELL-INFORMED PERONIST SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 23 THAT LABOR LEADERS HAD NOT ON THIS OCCASION DIRECTLY RAISED ISSUE OF LOPEZ REGA'S DISPROPORTIONATE POWER. THEY DID, HOWEVER, BRING UP AND COMPLAIN OF THE FEB 26 POLICE ATTEMPT TO INVADE UOM HEADQUARTERS (SEE REF B). INASMUCH AS ATTEMPT WAS ENGINEERED BY LOPEZ REGA, THIS WAS AN INDIRECT WAY OF GETTING AT HIM. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, LABOR LEADERS DO PLAN TO RAISE ISSUE
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IN MORE DIRECT MANNER AT NEXT MEETING WITH

MRS. PERON.

3. WHILE LABOR LEADERS AGAIN INDICATED LOYALTY TO MRS. PERON, THEY HAD MAJOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST HER GOVERNMENT. THEY AGAIN POINTED TO ABSENCE OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM DURING PAST FEW MONTHS. MRS. PERON PROMISED TO HOLD PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS IN FUTURE. THEY ALSO INDICATED STRONG OBJECTIONS TO ECON MINISTER GOMEZ MORALES' ECONOMIC PLAN AND REPORTEDLY AGAIN DEMANDED REPLACEMENT OF SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS ECONOMIC TEAM. ACCORDING TO SOURCE CLOSE TO CASILDO HERRERAS, MRS. PERON RESPONDED TO THESE PARTICULAR COMPLAINTS SIMPLY BY AGREEING TO STUDY THE MATTER.

4. LABOR LEADERS REPEATED PREVIOUSLY VOICED COMPLAINTS THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT SHARE IN GOVERNMENT AND POINTED SPECIFICALLY TO A SERIES OF POSITIONS IN STATE ENTERPRISES WHICH THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY REQUESTED WITHOUT RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MRS. PERON ASKED THAT REQUEST BE PUT IN WRITING SO SHE COULD CONSULT WITH PROPER OFFICIALS BEFORE RESPONDING.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, MRS. PERON SUGGESTED THAT SHE MEET WITH REDUCED NUMBER OF LABOR REPS (PROBABLY WITH ONLY HERRERAS AND MIGUEL) BEFORE MAY 1, WHEN USUAL DEMONSTRATION WILL PROBABLY BE ORGANIZED IN PLAZA DE MAYO BY CGT.

6. COMMENT: PERONIST SOURCES INDICATE THAT TONE OF MEETING WAS RESPECTFUL BUT VERY FRANK AND BUSINESSLIKE. LABOR LEADERS MADE THEIR DEMANDS AND ENUNCIATED COMPLAINTS IN VERY BLUNT, DIRECT MANNER. MEETING CONFIRMS THAT HER WELL-RECEIVED SPEECH APRIL 4 TO LABOR AUDIENCE (SEE REF A) MAY HAVE CAUSED LABOR TO ALTER TIMING AND MANNER OF PRESENTATION OF DEMANDS, BUT DOES NOT ALTER SITUATION IN SUBSTANTIVE WAY. LABOR WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR GREATER SHARE OF THE POWER.
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